

City of Auburn Newsletter

Spring 2012

Auburn Charter Sent to the Governor

The Auburn Charter Commission, established after the November election last year, has completed the first phase of a review of the Auburn Charter. On April 19 they sent off to the Michigan Attorney General a charter that is less than half of size of the Auburn charter adopted in 1973.

Gary Black, chairman of the Charter Commission, said "We discovered very quickly that an updated charter would be very useful. So much of the language in the current charter is not the final word for Auburn. We are very much under state law, and it is simply not necessary to include details that the state controls. In some cases, state law has changed since 1973, and our charter needs to reflect that."

Last November Auburn voters approved a review of the city charter that was previously revised 39 years ago. In the same election, nine people were elected to an Auburn Charter Commission to conduct that review. The Commission has been meeting almost weekly, often for three hours at a time, to identify how the charter could be

improved.

"We printed a lot of paper in the process," explained Amy Reder, one of the Charter Commission members. "Whether it was other city charters, state law, or the updated language, we needed to have a clean document in front of us each week to push the review forward."

HRCA Requirements

"The proposed charter does not change how the city works, but we believe it will help people understand why it works the way it does."

A city charter is controlled by the Michigan Home Rule City Act (HRCA). Part of the requirement for a proposed charter is that it goes to the Attorney General for a review for the governor. If the Attorney General sees language that is missing, or contrary to state law, the problems will be identified. The state has three months to return the document to the Charter Commission. When those corrections are made, the proposed charter will be ready to be put on the bal-

lot.

Will it be easier to read? "We certainly think so," explained Diane Heffron of the Charter Commission. "That was a focus of our discussion. Confusing language went back to the drawing board very quickly. Old language, like 'annexing his warrant', was tossed. It simply meant a signature."

Even Year Elections

One proposal in the draft is that Auburn switch to even-year elections. Two benefits: increased voter participation is one; eliminating the cost for a city-only election is the other. In the same way many Michigan school districts are beginning to match other election cycles to eliminate the election costs that the schools had to bear alone.

"The election cycle change," said Betty Owen, secretary to the Charter Commission, is probably the most significant change. The proposed charter does not change *how* the city works, but we believe it will help people understand *why* it works the way it does."

Charter Commission Members

Gary Black—Chairman
Kay Bridenbaugh
Matt Charbonneau—Vice Chairman
Jan Dzurka
Dale R. Gripentrog
Diane Heffron
Kathy Kilbourn
Betty Owen—Secretary
Amy Reder

Upcoming Events

- Treasure Hunt Days/
Citywide Rummage Sale
-May 17-19
- Health Fair—Methodist
Church—May 19
12:00-4:00 pm
- Veteran's Memorial—
City Park—May 28
Noon
- Big Top Circus-June 23
- Corn Fest-July 12-15
- Car Show-Grace
Lutheran July 27 6:00
-8:00 pm
- Concerts in the Park
Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 pm
June 19, July 17, Aug 21

Check website for details
www.auburnmi.org



Big Top Circus is Coming to Auburn Park

Thanks to the sponsorship of AUBURN WILIAMS LIONS CLUB, Culpepper & Merriweather Circus, America's Favorite Big Top Circus is coming to THE CITY OF AUBURN on JUNE 23, 2012 at the Jaycee Park located across from the Auburn City Park with two scheduled performances at 2:00 p.m and 4:00 p.m. C&M Circus has become internationally known for quality family entertainment. This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on National Geographic's Explorer TV series, Entertainment Tonight, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune, Arizona Highways Magazine, featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top as well as On the Road with Circus Kids, a Nickelodeon special featured on the Nick News Program.

Bring your friends and family out circus morning to watch as a familiar place in our town is transformed into a bustling Circus City. Activity swirls around the grounds as animals are unloaded, the Big Top is erected, and rigging is prepared for performances later in the day. Enjoy the magic and tradition of the American Circus with your family and create memories that will last a lifetime.

Auburn United Methodist Church FREE Health Fair

Saturday -May 19, 2012

Noon - 4:00 p.m.

Free Eye Screening (1-5yrs old): Courtesy of the Lion's Club

Free Car seat evaluations/advice: Courtesy of the Bay County Sheriff's Dept

Free Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar checks: A&D Homecare

Free Chair Massage: Courtesy of Julianna Tacey

Information regarding:

*Dental Care

*Sleep Apnea

*Helen Nickless Free Clinic

*Alzheimer's

*Hospice

*Staying Safe/self defense

*Food Pantry

*Red Cross

*Farmer's Market

*Local Health Resources

Address: 207 S. Auburn St

½ block south of Auburn Hotel

Veteran's Memorial

The City of Auburn's Veterans group is organizing a Memorial Day event to be held on Monday, May 28, 2012 at Noon. Please join us as we honor our fallen comrades by coming out and enjoying the tribute. Anyone wishing to participate are encouraged to call Dale R. Gripenrog at 989-266-3158.

Volunteers and Donations Needed

We can always use more volunteers to maintain the memorial! In addition, please contact Dale R. Gripenrog if you would like to donate plants or make a cash donation. Memorial bricks are for sale also, please contact City Hall for an ordering form.

Auburn Farmer's Market



Recruiting Vendors

Please call Bob Richmond,
Market Master if you would
like to be a vendor

989-954-6906 or
989-948-5895

Farmer's Market will be open
every Friday beginning in June
through September at the
Cornfest Grounds from 7am-1pm

If you have any questions, contact the Farmer's
Market Committee at 989-662-4001 and leave a
message. A committee member will get back with
you.

Sponsored by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce

Auburn Downtown Development Authority Update

The DDA board members would like to recognize and thank past President Charlie Robinson for his many years of volunteerism, dedication and service to the DDA Board. We would like to welcome new board member Diane McNally and newly elected Mayor Lee Kilbourn.

Projects Underway

- The Auburn DDA has instituted the Façade Improvement Grant Program to improve the appearance of business within the DDA boundaries. This funding is provided by the DDA to encourage the property owners to make much needed improvements to the exterior appearance of their buildings. Additionally, the DDA is looking into way-finding signs with future plans to continue the streetscape project from Price Street to Mustang Lane.
- Currently we have completed the Midland and Nine Mile pocket park project, and completed the welcome sign at the corner of Garfield and Midland Road.

Past Projects

The DDA has been very instrumental in many projects in the City. Past projects have been new sidewalks, street lights, benches and trash receptacles along Midland Road. Parking lots on Midland Road and Auburn Road intersection and also on Auburn and Elm Street. Renovation of the old Mike's Dairy building, promoting renovation of several run-down buildings and new street signs.

DDA Board Members

Gary DeShano

Bob Feinauer

Lee Kilbourn

Bernie Kissane

Archie Machelski

Charlie Robinson

Mike Snyder

Steve VanTol

Mary Williams

The DDA Board membership is volunteer and the meets on the fourth Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. of every month.

Election News from the Clerk

As you may or may not be aware of, once every decade, after the US Census data is made public, the election districts for the US Congress, Michigan House and Senate, and even for local county and city offices are redrawn. The goal is to keep the number of people in each district even – “one man, one vote”, it’s called. Redistricting for Bay County has been completed which has resulted in changes to the US Congress and State Representatives for the City of Auburn. In lieu of these changes new voters registration cards will be issued to all residents currently registered to vote in the City of Auburn in the near future.

2012 Election Dates

August 7, 2012 - Primary Election

Last day to register for Primary- July 9, 2012

November 6, 2012 - General Election

Last day to register for General Election October 9, 2012

Severe Weather Warning Siren

The City of Auburn was approached by Bay County's 911 Central Dispatch Director Leonard Norman and Bay County's Emergency Coordinator, Chris Izrowski, with regard to installing a tower with a loud speaker/siren system to alert residents of potential hazardous weather conditions or other situations as determined by emergency services.

The warning siren will be activated by Bay County's 911 Emergency Services and, with proper planning per Roger Garner, Emergency Management Coordinator for Midland County, could also be activated by their emergency ser-

vices office. With generous donations from Auburn Chamber of Commerce, Dow Chemical, Dow Corning and through Bay County Emergency Services Department (Homeland Security Grant), the warning siren will be installed on Western High School property this spring.

When installed siren test will happen the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.



Vacation Home Check

When you do leave your home be sure to sign up for Auburn's Home Watch Program. A deputy will check your home regularly while you are away. An exterior check of your home will be conducted to make sure there have been no unlawful entries and that no other obvious problems have occurred outside of your home. To sign up for this free service, contact City Hall from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday to Friday or visit www.auburnmi.org



Signs

The City code prohibits the placement of signs in the public right-of-way, which includes the sidewalk and the outlawn area between the sidewalk and the curb.

Private Trees and Shrubs Encroaching onto Public Works

For the safety of those who use the City's streets and sidewalks, trees, shrubs and bushes which overhang or are adjacent to sidewalks and streets must be trimmed.

Tree branches overhanging the sidewalk need to be trimmed to a height of at least eight feet above the sidewalk. Trees shrubs and other vegetation should be kept trimmed at least 12 inches back from the edge of the sidewalk.

Curbside Branch Pick-Up Program

Public Works crews will accept:

- Tree branches no larger than 3 inches in diameter or 14 feet in length. Any Y branches within 3 feet of the end of branch must be cut off;
- Shrub trimmings and similar brush.

Crews will NOT accept:

- Tree trunks, stumps or root balls
- Firewood
- Railroad ties or landscape timbers
- Grass clippings, leaves, sod, plants or yard waste
- Brush resulting from a contracted service.

Crews will continue to pick up brush until the last Tuesday in November.

Please remember to face cut ends the same way traffic flows. Brush that can be tied and bundled according to the trash company's guidelines should be set to the curb on trash day.

Free wood chips can be delivered the day of chipping, please call City Hall.

Mosquitoes

Help reduce the number of mosquitoes in areas outdoors where you work or play, by draining sources of standing water. In this way, you reduce the number of places mosquitoes can lay their eggs and breed.

- At least once or twice a week, empty water from flowerpots, pet food & water dishes, birdbaths, swimming pool covers, bucket, barrels, and cans.
- Check for clogged rain gutters and clean them out.



Grass Clippings

Now that the grass mowing season is upon us—please remember to keep all grass clippings off the streets. Grass clippings eventually reach the street drain system and will prevent City drains from working properly.

Regulations for Abandoned and Dismantled Vehicles

Abandoned vehicles are vehicles left unattended on public or private property and which do not have a valid license. Dismantled vehicles are vehicles which have been partly dismantled and are missing parts.

Neither abandoned nor dismantled vehicles or related parts may remain on residential property, nor may they be stored or placed in the front yard of any property at any time.

Vehicles may be stored in wholly enclosed garage.



Pets in City Park

Please remember that if you choose to bring your pet to the City Park, it must be restrained on a six foot leash at all times. Additionally, pet owners are responsible for "cleaning up" after their pets.

Pets are not allowed from the building west to Auburn road.

Before You Dig!

Just a reminder, if you are planning to dig or excavate, state law requires you notify MISS DIG of your intent to work, and contact them at least three working days in advance. One easy call gets free staking of underground utilities and helps reduce the chance of injury and expense.

To notify MISS DIG of your intent to dig:

Call—811

Visit—www.missdig.com

Spring 2012

City of Auburn
113 E. Elm Street
Auburn, MI 48611

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Fax: 989-662-0240

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Auburn City Commission

Mayor

Lee Kilbourn

Commissioners:

Ken Charbonneau

Matt Hardy

Ann Machelski

John McNally

Amy Rezmer

Russell Williams

Meeting Calendar

City Commission meetings held twice monthly on the first and third Mondays at 7:00 p.m.

Downtown Development Authority
Fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Planning Commission
Third Tuesday of the months of Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov at 7:00 p.m.

Please Check the Website for the City calendar of all meetings and events.

WWW.AUBURNMI.ORG

Holiday Schedule

City Hall and DPW offices will be closed for the observance of the following holidays.

Memorial Day-May 28
Independence Day-July 4
Labor Day-September 4

Residents who need assistance with a Public Works emergency on these days should call 911 who will contact the Public Works employee or supervisor.

YOUR TRASH WILL BE COLLECTED ONE DAY LATE BECAUSE OF THESE HOLIDAYS.